

## Message Text

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20

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03

NSC-10 RSC-01 SS-15 DRC-01 OC-06 CCO-00 PRS-01 PA-03

USIA-15 /106 W

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R 130705Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1664

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

DIA WASHDC

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CANBERRA 5067

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP, MARR, AS, US

SUBJ: DISCUSSIONS OF MINISTER OF DEFENSE'S UPCOMING  
WASHINGTON VISIT

REF: CANBERRA 4826

1. AS REPORTED PARA 3 REFTTEL, DEFENSE MINISTER BARNARD  
NOW PLANNING TO VISIT WASH. AROUND THE BEGINNING OF DEC.  
THIS PROPOSED TIMING FOR HIS VISIT HAS NOW BECOME PUBLIC  
KNOWLEDGE THROUGH PUBLICATION OF STORY IN CANBERRA TIMES  
SEPT 12, INDICATING MR. BARNARD WOULD NOT VISIT WASH.  
UNTIL DECEMBER.

2. ACCORDING TO HOLGATE, PRESS SECRETARY TO MR. BARNARD,  
MR. BARNARD CONFIRMED HIS PLAN TO VISIT WASH IN DECEMBER IN  
RESPONSE TO QUESTION FROM FRANK CRANSTON, DEFENSE JOURNALIST FOR  
CANBERRA TIMES. CRANSTON ARTICLE ALSO SPECU-  
LATES ABOUT TOPICS BARNARD CAN BE EXPECTED TO DISCUSS  
IN WASH. AMONG THESE ARE A REDUCTION OF \$30 MILLION IN  
PRICE AUSTRALIA WILL PAY FOR 24 F111 FIGHTER BOMBERS  
AND SUGGESTION THAT AUSTRALIA PLAY GREATER ROLE IN  
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OPERATION OF NORTHWEST CAPE NAVAL COMMUNICATIONS STATION.

CRANSTON GIVES AS REASONS FOR DELAY IN SCHEDULING  
BARNARD'S WASH. VISIT ABSENCE OF PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM  
FROM COUNTRY IN OCT. AND BECAUSE "ISSUE OF (U.S.) BASES  
IS NOW MUCH LESS PRESSING THAN IT WAS EARLIER THIS YEAR."  
ARTICLE CONCLUDES BY STATING THAT GOVERNMENT HAS ACCEPTED  
PINE GAP AND WOOMERA FACILITIES AS BEING USED FOR "ENTIRELY  
DEFENSIVE PURPOSES".

3. FIRST ASSISTANT SECRETARY PRITCHETT OF ADOD INFORMS  
EMBOFF THAT HE WAS UNAWARE HIMSELF BARNARD WAS GOING  
TO MAKE DATES FOR HIS VISIT TO WASHINGTON PUBLIC. IN RESIGNED  
MOOD, PRITCHETT NOTED THAT "AT LEAST WE KNOW WHERE THE  
LEAK CAME FROM THIS TIME."  
GREEN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 13 SEP 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** smithrj  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Subject:** DISCUSSIONS OF MINISTER OF DEFENSE'S UPCOMING WASHINGTON VISIT  
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